

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS JULY, 1943.

C O N T E N T S.

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PART I. PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

GENERAL.

Seasonal Conditions. Dry conditions were general until widespread rains occurred at the close of the month. Falls were very light in the coastal areas. Cold weather has been experienced with widespread frosts and snow in many areas, resulting in slow growth of crops. Pastoral conditions are not very favourable.

FOOD SUPPLY, ETC.

According to Mr. Scully, Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, the area under vegetables in Australia was about 244,000 acres before the war while the target for the 1943 season is 496,000 acres. Growers are now furnishing returns of their prospective sowings in 1943-44.

Target acreages for specific crops have been announced and examples are as follow (1942-43 areas in parentheses): Potatoes (ordinary) 140,800 (174,000), navy beans 9,300 (15,000); Carrots 8,300 (10,000); onions 9,000 (10,000); blue peas 35,600 (42,000); green peas 33,800 (80,000); tomatoes 19,200 (25,000); spinach and silver beet 1,500 (3,000).

The State Government has extended for another year the scheme to give financial assistance to vegetable and potato growers in necessitous circumstances. About 120 growers have received help through the Rural Industries Branch of the Rural Bank.

Maximum prices in Sydney have been fixed for eight varieties of vegetables. The prices are:

<u>Vegetable.</u>	<u>Retail.</u> per lb.	<u>Wholesale.</u>
Carrots	4d.	25/- cwt.
Parsnips	4 ¹ / ₂ d.	28/- "
Swedes	2 ¹ / ₂ d.	14/- "
Beans	1/1	10d. lb.
Peas	1/-	9d. lb.
Beetroot	3 ¹ / ₂ d.	23/- cwt.
Sweet Potatoes	3d.	16/- "
Pumpkins	2 ¹ / ₂ d.	12/- "

On and after 9th August, the slaughtering of porker pigs of less than 100 lb. carcase weight will be prohibited. with a view to increased production of heavyweight pigs for bacon.

The Federal Government desires to stabilise the sugar industry at a level commensurate with manpower, fertiliser and other resources available. The target for production is 600,000 tons. Additional quantities of nitrogenous fertiliser are being obtained from Chile for the primary industries, including sugar.

WOOL.

In a speech, Mr. Scully, Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, said that the wool industry had been maintained in a state of solvency through fixed prices. Reserves of wool in Britain and U.S.A. are large and he considered a conference of woolgrowers from South Africa, New Zealand and Australia necessary to prepare plans for post-war marketing of wool. "I consider it would be fatal", he continued, "if the industry reverted to the open market system after the war. I believe that the producers of the three Dominions will subscribe to that viewpoint".

WHEAT.

The last Australian wheat crop (1942-43) was 155.7 m. bus. from 9.3 m. acres and the yield per acre 16.78 bus. was a record. The acreage harvested for grain was 5 m. acres less than in 1938/39. The area sown in the current (1943-44) season is expected to be nearly 1 m. acres less than in 1942-43 i.e. approximately 8,300,000 acres.

The Government Statistician has estimated that acreage sown for grain in N.S.W. may have declined to 2.7 m. acres in the current season compared with 3.03 m. acres harvested in 1942/43.

Costs to Britain of wheat from three large exporting countries were given by the general manager of the Australian Wheat Board as: Australian 9/9 per bus., Canadian 8/8 and Argentine 7/4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Contract price for Australian wheat f.o.b. is 4/6 per bus., so that freight, insurance (incl. war risk) etc. is 5/3 per bus. Relative prices for the three countries for wheat landed in Middle East parts are: Australian 9/10, Canadian 10/4 and Argentine 9/5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per bus.

WHEAT CROP, N.S.W. AND AUSTRALIA.

Season.	N. S. W.			AUSTRALIA.		
	Acreage	Yield.		Acreage	Yield.	
		Total	Per Ac.		Total	Per Ac.
	'000	m. bus.	bus.	'000	m. bus.	bus.
1983/39	4,651	59.9	12.9	14,346	155.4	10.8
1939/40	4,381	76.6	17.5	13,285	210.5	15.8
1940/41	4,454	23.9	5.4	12,645	82.2	6.5
1941/42	3,969	48.5	12.2	12,063	166.6	13.8
1942/43	3,033	51.7	17.0	9,280(a)	155.7	16.8

(a) Subject to revision.

DAIRY INDUSTRIES.

Butter and cheese production in May, 1943 was lower than last year and followed the low production in April. In June and July discouraging reports were made of output.

The total Australian butter output in the eleven months period July '42 - May '43 exceeded production in the corresponding period of the previous year but was far below 1940/41. Cheese production in Australia has shown an increase in each of the last three years but in N.S.W. cheese output in 1942/43 was less than in 1940/41.

The Milk Board (N.S.W.) commenced an inquiry into retail margins in the milk industry on 28th July, 1943.

The representative of the British Food Ministry has stated that Britain is not importing butter from U.S.A. There is also no foundation for the view that the price paid for Australian cheese is less than that charged by U.S.A. against Britain in Lend-Lease accounts.

FACTORY PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

TONS.

Period.	BUTTER		CHEESE	
	Australia	N.S.W.	Australia	N.S.W.
May: 1941	11,858	3,016	1,574	172
1942	10,284	3,031	1,872	159
1943	7,679	2,135	1,405	87
July-May:				
1940/41	175,319	43,973	25,236	2,724
1941/42	150,978	35,557	27,608	2,108
1942/43	157,383	40,201	33,998	2,265

/The Method.....

The method of allocation of the £6.5 m. p.a. subsidy for the dairy industry was reported in B.S. 1943/6B). Only interim payments were made in the period Jan.-June, 1943 pending determination of butter, cheese, etc. output in 1942-43 and the final rates per lb. are expected to be approximately $3\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. for butter and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for cheese.

Pay to suppliers of cream to certain North Coast butter factories in June, 1943 was at the rate of $1/1\frac{1}{2}$ per lb. of commercial butter made. In addition, the interim subsidy payment was at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.. The total payment $1/5$ per lb. was $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. above the "pay" in June, 1942. Deferred pay is not included in any of the above figures.

N.S.W. BUTTER - PAY TO CREAM SUPPLIERS

By certain North Coast Factories.

Pence per lb. of commercial butter made.

Year	Deferred Pay x		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
	July-Dec.	Jan.-June						
1934/35	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{4}$	9	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{1}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{3}{4}$
1938/39	5/16	1.06	$12\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	12	$12\frac{1}{2}$
1940/41	$\frac{3}{4}$	1	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{5}{8}$	$12\frac{3}{4}$	$12\frac{7}{8}$	13	$13\frac{1}{4}$
1941/42	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$12\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	13	$13\frac{1}{2}$
1942/43-Pay	$1\frac{7}{16}$	(a)	$13\frac{2}{7}$	$13\frac{2}{7}$	$13\frac{2}{7}$	$13\frac{11}{14}$	$13\frac{11}{14}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$
-Subsidy Paid	-	-	$\frac{5}{7}$	$\frac{5}{7}$	$\frac{5}{7}$	$\frac{5}{7}$	$\frac{5}{7}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$

x Add to monthly pay in appropriate period.

(a) Not available.

Quotas of butter and cheese for local consumption in N.S.W. in August, 1943 were 81% and 70% respectively which indicate the usual seasonal movement. Quotas are still above the levels of previous years.

COAL.

A fire at a large mine has thrown it idle for a few months. The loss of output is about 1,650 tons daily. Lodges of two other local mines have agreed to placing the 600 men on afternoon shifts at their respective mines.

Procedure for dealing with work stoppages at coal mines has been amended. Immediate investigation is to be made by an officer of the Commonwealth Investigation Branch accompanied, if possible, by an arbitration inspector. An urgent report is to be furnished to the Prime Minister and a copy sent to the local Deputy Crown Solicitor. If the Deputy C.S. is satisfied that there is a prima facie contravention of the law he is to take proceedings against the individuals concerned forthwith.

Where safety issues are involved the State Minister for Mines is to obtain an urgent report from a mining inspector and take the necessary action immediately. If conditions are safe, employees are to resume. Payment fines for contravention of the law is to be enforced. Under the new regulations some hundreds of summonses have been served on miners.

PART II. FINANCE AND TRADE.

GENERAL.

A loan has been opened to convert a $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ £13.06 m. Commonwealth loan maturing on 15th August, 1943. Terms of conversion are par, $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ for 4 - 5 years and $3\frac{1}{4}\%$ for 7 - 16 years. No cash subscriptions are sought.

The Prime Minister announced that the cost of the subsidies to the consumer on tea and potatoes and the loss of revenue from reduced sales tax on clothing and textiles would together amount to £7 m. or £8 m. a year. In addition, recoupment of private employers for the cost-of-living addition to wages in August, September and October, 1943 is expected to total £250,000 a month. Further information on the above action implementing the Prices Stabilisation Plan was given in earlier issues of Business Statistics.

BOND YIELDS.

Yields on Commonwealth Government bonds have been steady during recent months. At the end of June, 1943 the yield on short-dated bonds (2 years) subject to current rates of taxation, was 2.48% and on long-dated bonds (12 years) 3.24%. In each case these yields were within .01% of the averages in 1941.

SHARE PRICES.

The complete index of share prices (75 companies) rose one point to 180 in June, 1943. The highest level attained by the index was 190 in March, 1937.

The only individual group index to show a change in June, 1943 was manufacturing and distributing. The general level of share prices is steady due to control measures which prevent the full effects of the present persistent demand for shares being felt.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY.

Prices of ordinary shares - excl. banks. Par Value = 100.
(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician).

Average for Month	Manufacturing & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral & Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1937 - Mar.	214	204	181	169	281	190(a)	201
1939 - Aug.	213	168	156	118	264	174	182
1941 - Sept.	228	177	142	128	253	175	191
1942 - June	184	146	117	116	216	147	157
- Dec.	227	171	133	132	249	173	189
1943 - Feb.	232	179	137	134	251	177	195
- Apr.	234	180	141	133	254	179	196
- May	234	178	141	133	254	179	196
- June	235	178	141	133	254	180	196

(a) Highest point recorded.

SAVING.

Total balances in depositors' savings bank accounts in N.S.W. increased in June, 1943 by the large amount of £4,389,000 (including interest added, £1,857,000). The net excess of deposits over withdrawals during June was £2,532,000 or slightly above the increase in May. The accumulation in savings bank accounts during the last twelve months has amounted to nearly £18 m. in N.S.W. in 1942/43 compared with £6,788,000 in 1941/42. Net purchases of War Savings Certificates in the corresponding years were £3.05 m. and £3.0 m.

(note: In the table the increase in depositors' balances in June, 1942 includes £1,465,674 interest credited during that month).

/Table.....

NEW SOUTH WALES - SAVING.

End of Month.	Balance in Savings Bk., Accounts.	Net Total W.S.C. Outstanding.
	£m.	£m.
June, 1939	87.5	-
June 1941	87.8	6.5
" 1942	94.5	9.5
" 1943	122.4	12.5

Period.	Increase in Savings Bk. Deposits.	Net Sales of W.S. Certifis.Ø
	£'000	£'000
1940/41	5,639	4,040
1941/42	6,788	3,005
1942/43	17,868	3,054
1942-Apr.	1,652	210
-May	1,814	224
-June x	1,613	339
1943-Apr. x	(-)142	312
May	2,516	198
June	4,389	229

x War loan raised.

Ø Sales less current redemptions.

(-) Denotes decrease.

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Sales at wholesale in N.S.W. by registered traders in the month of May, 1943 totalled £19.6 m. a decrease of £2.3 m. compared with April, 1943. Sales of taxable goods declined, as in last year, but the greater part of the decrease from April to May, 1943 was in the sales of exempt goods (which include Commonwealth Government purchases).

WHOLESALE TRADE, N.S.W.

Sales by traders registered under Sales Tax Acts.

Total, taxable and exempt goods.

	<u>1938/39.</u>	<u>1939/40.</u>	<u>1940/41.</u>	<u>1941/42.</u>	<u>1942/43.</u>
Sales - £ million.					
<u>Eleven months ended May.</u>	177.4	187.3	193.6	216.3	221.9
<u>Month - Jan.</u>	13.2	16.3	15.8	18.7	17.2
Feb.	16.5	14.6	17.5	19.4	21.6
Mar.	15.8	17.0	17.4	19.5	19.4
Apr.	15.8	17.9	19.1	19.2	21.9
May.	17.5	14.8	18.8	20.7	19.6

RETAIL TRADE.

The value of retail sales in a group of Sydney stores in May, 1943 was 0.8% above sales in May, 1942. This experience was in contrast to that in the few previous months and was due to marked expansion in sales of rationed goods e.g. girls' and children's wear, dress piece goods, boots and shoes and boys' wear. Ration coupons for 1942/43 expired on 5th June,

In May the value of retail stocks (at cost) declined to 11.1% below May, 1942. Employment in retail trade continues to decline (see "EMPLOYMENT")

/ RETAIL.....

RETAIL TRADE - SYDNEY.

(Experience of 24 Sydney Stores)

Percentage increase from corresponding period of the previous year.

Period	Net Value of Sales.	Value of Stock.	Wages & Salaries. Paid.	Number of Employees.
1939	+ 2.4	+ 2.0	+ 2.6	+ 0.9
1940	+ 6.3	+ 17.0	+ 4.0	+ 1.9
1941	+ 14.6	+ 8.0	+ 9.0	+ 4.0
1942	(-) 5.3	+ 9.2	(-) 5.1	(-) 8.4
1943 - Jan.	(-) 15.3	+ 6.0	(-) 14.7	(-) 19.3
- Feb.	(-) 27.5	+ 2.2	(-) 17.9	(-) 23.0
- Mar.	(-) 14.1	(-) 2.4	(-) 9.4	(-) 19.5
- Apr.	(-) 16.0	(-) 2.3	(-) 16.0	(-) 20.0
- May	+ 0.8	(-) 11.1	(-) 11.1	(-) 19.7

(-) Denotes decrease.

An allowance of 6 lb. sugar per person in addition to normal rations, is available for the purpose of household jam making.

Water pipes have been made available by the Dept. of Supply to repair deficient water services in the metropolitan area.

Margarine and neatsfoot oil may not be exported except under licence.

Imports of cotton textiles and cotton yarns from India will in future be confined to the best qualities obtainable at competitive prices. An import licensing system has been introduced to prevent excessive and widely varying landed costs of these textiles and to prevent import of low quality goods.

PART III - INDUSTRIES, ETC.

EMPLOYMENT.N.S.W. ESTIM. NON-RURAL EMPLOYMENT.
(Excl. household domestic).

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Males.</u> <u>'000</u>	<u>Females.</u> <u>'000</u>	<u>Total.</u> <u>'000</u>
1939-July	535.6	160.7	696.3
1941-July	561.0	208.5	769.5
-Dec.	566.7	219.1	785.8
1942-Apr.	552.2	225.1	777.3
-May	550.1	225.4	775.5
-Aug.	541.4	227.4	768.8
-Dec.	533.9	236.3	770.2
1943-Jan.	535.0	236.2	771.2
-Feb.	536.2	237.7	773.9
-Mar.	534.2	239.9	774.1
-Apr.	531.5	240.6	772.1
-May	532.0	241.2	773.2

(Excluding military personnel)

The estimated total number of wage and salary earners employed in N.S.W. (excluding rural employees and household domestics) was 773,200 at the end of May, 1943. There were small increases in both male and female employment. Private employment was approximately the same as in April. Government employment increased.

The latest statistics derived from Pay Roll Tax returns, which are classified in certain broad industrial groups, are shown below. Employment in coal mining in May, 1943 showed a recovery from the temporary decreases of recent months which were due to industrial disputes. Building, transport and "personal service" showed very small changes. The downward trend in employment in the wholesale and retail trades and "other commerce and finance" continued during May, 1943.

NEW SOUTH WALES.EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS AS RECORDED BY
EMPLOYERS ON PAY ROLL TAX RETURNS.
(Thousands)

Last Pay Day in Month	Employees recorded by employers whose principal activity is:													
	Mining & Quarrying		Building & Construction(a)		Transport (Excl. shipping)		Retail Trade		Wholesale Trade		Other Commerce & Finance(b)		Personal Service (Excl. household Domestic) (c)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1941-July	21.7	6.1	20.5	0.5	60.7	2.7	31.9	31.8	29.1	10.1	20.9	9.8	16.3	20.3
Nov.	21.7	0.2	19.3	0.5	61.9	3.0	32.1	33.8	29.3	11.1	21.6	10.5	16.7	21.5
1942-Feb.	21.2	0.2	20.1	0.5	62.4	3.1	29.4	33.5	27.9	11.1	19.8	11.2	15.4	21.5
May	21.0	0.2	18.5	0.5	62.5	3.4	26.4	33.0	26.2	11.1	18.3	11.5	14.3	21.8
July	21.2	0.2	17.2	0.5	62.4	3.5	24.9	32.1	24.9	11.1	17.3	11.7	13.4	21.5
Dec.	20.7	0.2	15.4	0.5	62.4	4.3	24.6	32.9	24.6	11.4	16.3	11.7	12.7	21.6
1943-Mar.	20.5	0.2	17.0	0.5	63.2	4.9	22.6	30.8	24.3	11.2	15.8	11.8	12.8	21.8
Apr.	19.7	0.2	16.7	0.5	63.2	5.0	22.5	30.5	23.9	11.3	15.2	11.9	12.6	21.8
May	20.8	0.2	16.7	0.5	63.1	5.1	22.3	30.2	23.8	11.0	15.0	11.8	12.6	21.8

- ø Pay-Roll Tax returns are submitted by all employers (except C/wealth Govt., Charities, etc.) whose pay-roll exceeds £20 per wk.
- (a) Excl. large numbers employed on Construction by Govt. authorities.
- (b) Incl. wool and produce brokers, banks, insurance and commerce n.e.i.
- (c) Incl. hotels, restaurants, entertainment, professional and personal service.

MANPOWER NOTES.

An appeal for women to return to work in the clothing trades or to enter this employment for the first time has been answered by well over 1,000 women. The Clothing and Allied Trades award has been amended to permit the employment of skilled women part-time (but not less than 24 hours weekly).

In the Queensland canefields 800 men have been made available by the Army to take in the harvest during the months of August and September. The Prime Minister has discussed with Army H.Q. the question of further releases from the Army for rural work but no decision has been announced.

This season women have replaced men as cooks in many shearing sheds in N.S.W.

The Minister for Post-War Reconstruction, Mr. Chifley, announced that an advanced stage had been reached in the Government's plans to train personnel in the Services for civilian occupations. Wages payable during training have been fixed at £3/5/- per week for a single man without dependents rising to £5/5/- for a married man with a family. Women at home will be paid £2/-/- per week and an allowance of 15/- will be paid to women living away from their homes.

Particular attention is being given to training for the building trades and a start has been made in training through the Army Education Service.

MANUFACTURING.Factory employment.

Estimated total employment in factories and works in N.S.W. at the end of May, 1943 was 317,400 (incl. working proprietors) an increase of 1,400 over the previous month. Both male and female employment in factories increased. Compared a year earlier, males had increased by 4,000 and females 10,400.

The index of factory employment (1938/39 = 100) was 139 in May, 1943.

From April, 1943 to May there were only slight variations in employment in individual classes of factories other than the founding, engineering, aircraft etc. group. For this group, Pay Roll Tax returns and records of Government factories disclose increases of 800 in male employment and 1,200 in female employment. The trend of employment in individual factory classes is illustrated in Table II below.

Sales of 42 large factories increased from April to May, 1943. The number of employees showed a small decline.

TABLE I.N.S.W. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

Period.	42 Large Factories			All Factories & works in N.S.W. [■]				
	Value of Sales	Employees	Weekly Wages & Salaries	Employees (incl. working proprietors)			Index of Employment	
				Males	Females	Total	1928/29 =100	1938/39 =100
	£n.	hundreds	£000					
1939-Av.	3.26	232	97	167.2	61.6	228.8	127	100
1941- "	4.40	277	133	194.2	71.6	265.8	147	116
1942- "	5.18	279	153	216.8	81.4	298.2	165	130
1941-May	4.30	276	130	204.9	73.8	278.7	154	122
1942-Apr.	4.90	278	151	219.4	82.4	301.8	167	132
May	4.93	278	152	219.8	83.2	303.0	168	132
1943-Mar.	5.45	270	153	223.1	92.6	315.7	175	138
Apr.	5.42	271	156	223.0	93.0	316.0	175	138
May	5.70	269	152	223.8	93.6	317.4	175	138

■ Figures in respect of 1942-43, subject to revision. Yearly averages are for years ended June.

/TABLE II.....

TABLE II.

EMPLOYMENT[★] (MONTHLY) IN CERTAIN FACTORY GROUPS, SO FAR AS RECORDEDDERIVED FROM 1. GOVT. FACTORY RETURNS & 2. PAY-ROLLTAX RETURNS (of employers whose principal activity is Manufacturing).

(Thousands)

Group		July, 1941	July, 1942	Sept. 1942	Dec. 1942	Mar. 1943	Apr. 1943	May, 1943.
Founding, engineering	M.)	118.9	137.3	138.5	138.8	141.8	142.6	143.4
vehicles, aircraft, etc.	F.)	10.8	17.8	20.1	23.1	26.8	27.8	29.0
Textiles	M.)	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.6	6.5
	F.)	9.0	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.2	10.2	10.2
Clothing	M.)	8.0	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
	F.)	25.0	23.3	22.6	22.0	21.6	21.6	21.6
Food, Drink & Tobacco	M.)	26.3	24.7	25.1	26.2	26.3	25.1	25.0
	F.)	12.3	13.3	13.4	14.5	14.3	13.3	13.2
Woodworking & Furniture	M.)	13.0	10.8	10.9	10.6	10.6	10.5	10.6
	F.)	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Paper, Printing etc.	M.)	12.9	10.2	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.7	9.6
	F.)	6.7	6.7	6.8	7.1	6.9	7.0	6.9
Total [★] (incl. other groups)	M.)	225.7	231.2	231.7	231.6	234.6	234.3	234.9
	F.)	76.7	85.0	86.6	90.5	93.4	93.8	94.5

★ The above figures represent only the trend of factory employment as they include a large number of employees not actually engaged in the factories.

A Committee on Book Publication, appointed by the Commonwealth Government, recommended greater imports of books and paper and expanded local production of books. The Government has decided to exempt certain skilled printers from the call-up.

Printers have been instructed to discontinue employing labour on the production of calendars, other than the desk memo type.

The index of consumption of electricity and gas in Sydney was 175 in June, 1943 (1929-31 average = 100). This exceeded previous records.

INDEX OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION.

(Av. Corresp. period 1929-31=100)

<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>			
				<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May.</u>	<u>June.</u>
131	135	148	154	160	160	162	175

TRANSPORT.

Latest statistics of the operations of Government transport services are shown below. At the end of May, 1943 the railways were showing a heavy surplus of revenue over working expenses. Freight traffic was heavier than in the previous year.

Passenger traffic by railway, tramway and 'bus has been heavy. It has been

/announced.....

announced that in the year ended 30th June, 1943 the tramway and 'bus services (Sydney and Newcastle) carried 523 m. passengers compared with 478 m. in 1941/42. Railways carried 237 m. and 219 m. passengers respectively in same years.

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT SERVICES.

Eleven Months July-May.

year.	RAILWAYS.				TRAMWAYS & 'BUSES. (a)			
	Tonnage of Goods & Livestock	Working Expenses £	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses. £	Passenger Journeys.	Earnings	Working Expenses (x)	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses (x)	Passenger Journeys. x
	'000 tons	£000	£000	million	£000	£000	£000	million.
1938/39	13,986	12,730	4,832	172	4,022	3,388	634	344
1940/41	16,588	14,611	6,728	176	4,391	3,550	841	373
1941/42	17,075	18,283	6,959	199	4,996	4,185	811	442
1942/43	17,983	22,835	8,420	217	5,135	4,404	731	462

£ Excl. interest, s. fund and exch. (£6,570,000 in 1941/42).

(a) Sydney and Newcastle.

(x) Excl. int., s.f., exch. & current depreciation (£605,000 in 1941/42).

★ Excludes Harbour Bridge section trips.

MOTOR VEHICLES.

The number of motor vehicles on the registers in N.S.W. at 30th June, 1943 was 270,638 and increase of 300 during the month. Registrations of lorries and vans increased by 356 including an average 45 new lorries each week. Total vehicle registrations are now 58,600 below August, 1939, the decrease in the number of cars on the register being 43,450 and in cycles nearly 10,000.

BUILDING.

New buildings commenced in the Metropolitan Water Board area in June, 1943 were estimated to cost £275,000. In accordance with conditions during recent months, very little of the total was to be spent on dwellings.

In 1942/43 only 326 dwelling houses were built in the Metropolitan Water Board area compared with 4,347 in the previous year and 7,617 in 1938/39. The estimated cost of business premises (including factories) commenced during the year 1942/43 was also less than in the previous year.

BUILDINGS COMMENCED - METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD AREA.

Period.	Dwelling Houses (excl.flats)	VALUE OF BUILDINGS COMMENCED.						
		Dwelling Houses.	Flats	Business Premises (a)	Miscellaneous. (b)	T O T A L		
						City.	Suburb.	Total.
	No.	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1938/39	7,617	6,053	2,083	3,627	815	2,199	10,379	12,578
1941/42	4,347	3,895	1,032	2,348	957	486	7,746	8,232
1942/43	326	308	13	1,546	1,377	292	2,952	3,244
1941-June	613	564	320	128	90	43	1,059	1,102
1942-June	30	19	-	775	48	81	761	842
Dec.	20	8	-	53	261	18	304	322
1943-Mar.	20	9	-	136	54	-	199	199
Apr.	28	11	-	80	455	14	532	546
May	13	6	-	139	48	17	176	193
June	25	11	2	89	173	29	246	275

(a) Includes factories.

(b) Includes hospitals, etc.

The estimated total value of buildings (incl. repairs and additions) for which permits were issued in the Metropolitan district and country towns or for which Government contracts were arranged during 1942/43 was £6.8 m. compared with £14.3 m. in 1941/42. Government projects (whole of N.S.W.) accounted for about the same amount in each year, viz. £5 m. approx.. On the other hand, private expenditure on building, including alterations and repairs (except A.R.P.), declined from £9,333,000 to about £1,855,000. Restrictions on private building became severe soon after Japan entered the war against the Allies and thus, while applying to only the latter half of 1941/42, the restrictions were effective throughout the whole of 1942/43. In city and country the value of private building in 1942/43 was only 8 - 9% of the pre-war level.

VALUE OF PROPOSED BUILDINGS.
METROPOLIS AND COUNTRY TOWNS (N.S.W.)

New Buildings, Alterations & Additions (except A.R.P.)

Period.	Private Building (Permits to Build)		Public Building. + (C'w. & State Govts.)		Total		
	Metrop- olis	Other N.S.W. (as far as recorded). (a)	Metropolis	Remainder of State.	Metropolis	Other N.S.W. (as far as recorded) (a)	Total (a)
			<u>Thousands of £'s.</u>				
1938/39	15,333	5,953	(b)	(b)	-		
1939/40	11,437	5,052	1,053	1,537	12,490	6,589	19,079
1941/42	5,969	3,364	1,329	3,640	7,298	7,004	14,302
1942/43	1,400	455(c)	2,847	2,120	4,247	2,575(c)	6,822
1941-June Qr.	3,234	1,287	278	632	3,512	1,919	5,431
1942-June Qr.	289	315	241	588	530	903	1,433
1943-Mar. Qr.	128	119	1,599	458	1,727	557	2,284
June Qr.	371	105(c)	434	357	805	462(c)	1,267(c)

- (a) Non-metropolitan authorities, covering approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the State's non-metropolitan population, supply only quarterly returns of building permits. Other non-metropolitan authorities do not supply returns.
- (b) Not available.
- + Contracts accepted (N.S.W.)
- (c) Subject to slight revision.